

HOW TO... Keep viruses at bay

The internet is rife with malware that can wreak havoc on your PC. Karl Wright explains how Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7 on this month's cover disc can keep you safe

KASPERSKY ANTI-VIRUS 7

In 2005, a group of journalists decided to see how long an unprotected PC could remain online before it was infected by malware. The answer: eight seconds. In the face of this threat, you need reliable, trustworthy security software. This month's cover disc provides exactly that, with six months of free anti-virus protection from Kaspersky.

1 Before you install Kaspersky Anti-Virus 7, remove any other anti-virus software already installed on your PC, and make a note of the activation code on the face label of your cover disc. Run the installation routine from the Full Products section of the disc browser. Keep clicking Next until the Welcome screen prompts you to enter your activation code. Enter the code, click Next (first making sure you are connected to the internet) and fill in your registration details.

Once you have submitted your details, Kaspersky will email you a Technical Support user ID and password. Finish the installation routine and reboot your PC.

2 When your PC reboots, Kaspersky will automatically try to download the latest anti-virus updates. You must be connected to the internet, otherwise the program won't download the updates. An anti-virus program that hasn't been updated is almost useless.

To check that the update has succeeded, hover your mouse over the Kaspersky icon in your task tray (it looks like a red triangle with a black arrow pointing down from its longest side). Hold your mouse there for a second or two and

a small text box will appear telling you the date on which the program was last updated. Alternatively, you can open the main program (see Step 3) and open the Update tab.

3 The program's default settings provide good protection, but you can configure the program to behave as you want. To do this, right-click on the Kaspersky icon in your task tray and, from the menu that appears, select the Settings option. To set the level of protection, select Protection, File Anti-Virus. Unless your PC is particularly vulnerable, the default security level of Recommended will be fine.

Click Customize and in the window that appears, go to the tab labelled Pause task. Put a tick in the box 'On applications start up' and then click the Applications button. If an application is particularly demanding and needs as many resources as your PC can give it, add it to the list you find here. When you start that program, Kaspersky will disable itself, releasing memory and processor power for the program to use.

4 Kaspersky can examine any file you download for virus-like characteristics, even if that file isn't on its list of known viruses. In theory, your system could be infected with a virus before your anti-virus software has been updated. To prevent this happening, click the Heuristic analyzer tab in the Settings, Protection, File Anti-Virus window, put a tick in the box Use heuristic analyzer and set the scan level to medium. Make sure that Mail, Web and Proactive protection are all enabled as well.

The web protection setting is particularly interesting. If you tell Kaspersky to scan HTTP traffic and warn you when it detects a possible threat, you may find that it warns you every time the software can't match a site's security certificate to an identifiably safe company or individual, which will be often. However, this does give you a very high level of security.

5 To perform a scan on your system, click on the Scan heading on the left. The software offers you four options: you can scan what Kaspersky calls Critical areas; you can scan My Computer (all of it, or selected bits); you can scan just those components involved in the startup process; and you can scan specifically for rootkits, a relatively new threat that makes viruses difficult to find. By using the Add button to select the components you want to scan and then clicking New Scan Task at the bottom of the scan window, you save the settings for a scan you wish to run more than once. You will be prompted to give your new scan a name and to save it. It will then appear below rootkits in the list of possible scans in the left-hand task pane.

6 Next select one of your scan tasks and click on Start scan. You can see your progress in the main program pane, under the list of your PC's drives and other key components.

If it finds a threat, Kaspersky will offer you the choice of deleting or quarantining the file in question. Deletion is the safest bet, but may not always be possible, particularly if the infected object is a Windows system file. In this case, choose quarantine. **CS**

